

(b) and (c) Question does not arise

Classification of Minerals

5115 DR LAXMINARAYAN  
PANDEYA  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL  
BHARGAVA

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have classified the mineral/mines into various categories in the country

(b) if so, the category wise details thereof,

(c) whether a representation to this effect has been received by the Government to include lime and gypsum minerals in 'A' category essential for the cement industry into the open category,

(d) whether the Government propose to include in the schedule 'F' of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957, also only those minerals policy thereby separating the remaining minerals,

(e) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b) Minerals have been broadly classified under two categories, minor minerals and those other than minor minerals which are popularly known as major minerals. Minor minerals have been defined under section 3 (e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD Act) and have also been so notified in the Official Gazette from time to time. Building stones, gravel, ordi-

nary clay, ordinary sand, marble, limestone used in kilns, quartzite, sand stone when used for construction purpose, etc., have been categorised as minor minerals which are generally governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules of the respective State Governments

Minerals other than minor minerals are governed by the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. In case of some of these minerals which are specified in the First Schedule of the MMRD Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant or renewal of Prospecting Licence or Mining lease. They are generally known as 'First Schedule Minerals'. In all 38 minerals are listed in the First Schedule

(c) No category such as 'A' category or open category exist under the MMRD Act. However, some representations to delete limestone and gypsum from the First Schedule of the MMRD Act have been received

(d) to (f) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957 does not contain any Schedule 'F'

**Increase in Prices of Newsprint**

5116 SHRI SHANKARRAO KALE Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the hike in the prices of newsprint has affected the economies of the newspaper industry, and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken to retrieve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)

(a) Yes, sir

(b) Customs duty on the import of stan-

dard newsprint as well as glazed newsprint has been removed. The newspaper industry's liability accruing from the devaluation of rupee and rolling over of credits was reduced from Rs 60.63 crores to Rs 29.20 crores. DAVP advertisement rates have also been increased.

Utilisation of water of River  
Brahmaputra

5117 SHRI NANI  
NBHATTACHARYA  
SHRI ANAND RATNA  
MAURYA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the details of scheme for full utilisation of the waters of Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers in order to utilise the national water resources in the country,

(b) whether any study has been made to augment water supply to the Ganga and Hoogly for the improvement of navigation facility at Calcutta port and supply of water to Mehanadi, Godavari and Krishna basins,

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b) Some studies have been carried out to utilise waters of Brahmaputra for augmenting water supply to Ganga but not for augmenting supply to Mahandi, Godavari and Krishna basins

(c) and (d) There are two alternative possibilities for augmentation from Brahmaputra

(i) Brahmaputra-Ganga gravity Link Canal passing through India and Bangladesh, which will need the concurrence of Bangladesh

(ii) Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal contained entirely within Indian territory but involving pumping of water through a lift of 125 meters

(e) While conceptual paper studies have been carried out for alternative (i), pre-feasibility studies on the ground have been carried out for alternative (ii)

Irrigation schemes limited to Ayacut

5118 SHRIDHARAMHBIKSHAM Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka and Maharashtra have taken up several minor and lift irrigation schemes for tapping excess water over and above the allocation made to the States under the Bachawat Tribunal Award,

(b) if so the steps being taken by the Government in this regard,

(c) whether Central Water Commission have not cleared the irrigation scheme limited to an Ayacut upto 500 acres, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The clearance of irrigation projects for culturable command area below 2000 hectares is not required from Central Water Commission